

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in this application. Claim 10 is withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarity and to incorporate the features recited in original claim 2, and claim 2 is canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Casaregola in the August 30, 2006 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions made during the interview.

I. §102(b) Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 11-13

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Pfefferle, U.S. Patent No. 3,975,900. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amendment to claim 1 contained herein is substantially similar to the proposed amendment presented at the personal interview with Examiner Casaregola, although further amendments were made to even more clearly define a feature of claim 1. During the personal interview, Examiner Casaregola indicated that the proposed amendment, in addition to further clarification, as discussed above, appeared to overcome the rejection. In particular, Pfefferle does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 intake duct extending in an axial direction with respect to a centerline of the intake duct that is substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the compressor. The Pfefferle elements are colinear. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Pfefferle. Because claims 3-5, 7-9 and 11-13 incorporate the features of claim 1, these claims also are patentable over Pfefferle. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

II. §103(a) Rejection of Claim 6

The Office Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Pfefferle in view of Gulick, U.S. Patent No. 3,146,585. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

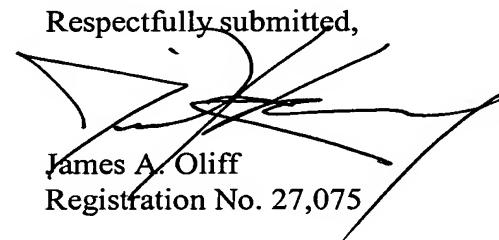
Gulick fails to account for the deficiencies of Pfefferle with respect to claim 1.

Because claim 6 incorporates the features of claim 1, claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Pfefferle and Gulick. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-13, and rejoinder and allowance of claim 10, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: September 5, 2006

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